

Fact Sheet
February 2003

Central Los Angeles Area New Middle School #1



PLEASE COMMENT ON PLAN TO CLEANUP PROPOSED SCHOOL SITE

*DTSC is one of six
Boards and
Departments within
the California
Environmental
Protection Agency.
The Department's
mission is to restore,
protect and enhance
the environment,
to ensure public health,
environmental
quality and
economic vitality,
by regulating
hazardous waste,
conducting and
overseeing
cleanups, and
developing
and promoting
pollution prevention.*

State of California



**California
Environmental
Protection Agency**



This fact sheet describes the environmental investigation and proposed hazardous substance cleanup activity for the proposed Central Los Angeles Area New Middle School No. 1. You are invited to review and comment on a Draft Removal Action Workplan (site cleanup plan) for the proposed new school site. The boundaries for the proposed school site are Wilshire Boulevard on the northeast, South Union Avenue and a commercial property on the northwest, Valencia Street and private residences on the southeast, and West 7th Street and a commercial property on the southwest in Los Angeles.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

February 24, 2003 - March 26, 2003

We invite you to provide us with your comments and questions about the soil removal plan for the Proposed Central Los Angeles Area New Middle School No. 1. The purpose of the public comment period is to give the community an opportunity to submit comments on the removal action plan. On the back of this Fact Sheet we provide information on who to write your comments to, and where to find the technical reports that provide detailed environmental information.

THIS FACT SHEET TELLS YOU

- What we found
- How it got there
- That it is not a risk to public health
- Why and how we plan to clean it up
- How you can tell us what you think
- Who to contact for more information

The site cleanup will be conducted by the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) under the oversight of our state agency, the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC). LAUSD is responsible for site selection, purchasing the property, site cleanup and construction. Our agency makes sure the cleanup work meets state and federal standards that protect the public's health and the environment. Under the guidelines of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), a draft Notice of Exemption was prepared for this project. It has been determined that the

The energy challenge facing California is real. Every Californian needs to take immediate action to reduce energy consumption. For a list of simple ways you can reduce demand and cut your energy costs, or for more information about DTSC see our website at www.dtsc.ca.gov.

proposed cleanup will not have a significant negative effect on the environment.

SITE INVESTIGATIONS

The LAUSD conducted a Preliminary Environmental Assessment (initial environmental investigation) and follow-up supplemental investigations at the proposed 8-acre site. They submitted the final report to DTSC in January 2003. The soil was tested in several locations and the investigations detected arsenic in one location, lead in two locations, and volatile organic compounds (compounds in gasoline, including benzene) at the Mobile Station area at levels above human health risk levels for school sites. (Benzene is a highly volatile chemical readily absorbed by breathing, eating, or contact with the skin.) In addition, petroleum hydrocarbons (chemicals in fuels) were detected in soil samples at levels that may present a future threat to groundwater.

As a result of the site investigation findings, a site cleanup, known as a removal action, is being proposed to remove and reduce the risk posed by the chemicals in the soil. Once the contaminated soil is removed, the potential risk will be reduced to levels that will be safe for students and faculty. DTSC will oversee the removal action, and will ensure that the removal is performed in a manner that does not result in any harm to people or the environment.

NOT A RISK TO THE PUBLIC

The good news is the site is not a risk to the people who work there or to the people who live nearby. This is because most of the areas are either paved or covered by concrete. These surfaces work as protective barriers between the chemicals and the public. For the one area that is not covered by concrete or asphalt, it is enclosed with a fence, and the public is unable to access it.

HOW THE CHEMICALS GOT THERE – WHY WE NEED A CLEANUP

The lead found at the site probably came from either lead-based paint and/or leaded gasoline. Although arsenic occurs naturally in the environment, there is a possibility that the arsenic found at this site came from industrial sources such as pesticides used, or during the manufacture of prescription drugs, paints, and glass. The petroleum hydrocarbons along with the other chemicals onsite, most likely came from underground storage tanks or the use of hazardous materials including oils, paints, paint thinner and fuels. Right now, the soil is covered (paved) or fenced and the public is not exposed. But, in the future when the school district begins the construction process to build the new middle school we need to remove the chemicals to make sure students, faculty and the area groundwater are not exposed.

CLEANUP OPTIONS

Several cleanup options were evaluated. Protection of human health and the environment was the most important factor considered. The following options were reviewed:

- Option 1 – No Action
- Option 2 – Onsite Containment
- Option 3 – Excavation and Disposal

Any cleanup plan has to protect public health and the environment, have a reasonable cost, and be shared with the community. We think the best plan that meets these goals is Option 3, Excavation and Disposal. The contaminated soil can be removed with about 20-30 truckloads, and transported for disposal. The preferred cleanup option was selected because it was determined to be effective, feasible, permanent and have a reasonable cost.

HOW WE PLAN TO CLEAN IT UP

The proposed Removal Action plan is to use construction equipment and remove about 277 cubic yards of soil, and haul it to a state approved disposal facility. This will be about 403 tons of material, and will be removed in 20-30 truckloads. After we haul it away, we will bring in clean soil to fill the holes and repave the areas. The cleanup may last about 3 weeks in each area, or 10 weeks total. This includes digging out the soil, transporting it, and follow-up confirmation soil sampling and analysis. Although this is the cleanup we propose, we would very much like to hear your thoughts and comments (see Comment Form).

DEALING WITH SAFETY AND DUST DURING CLEANUP

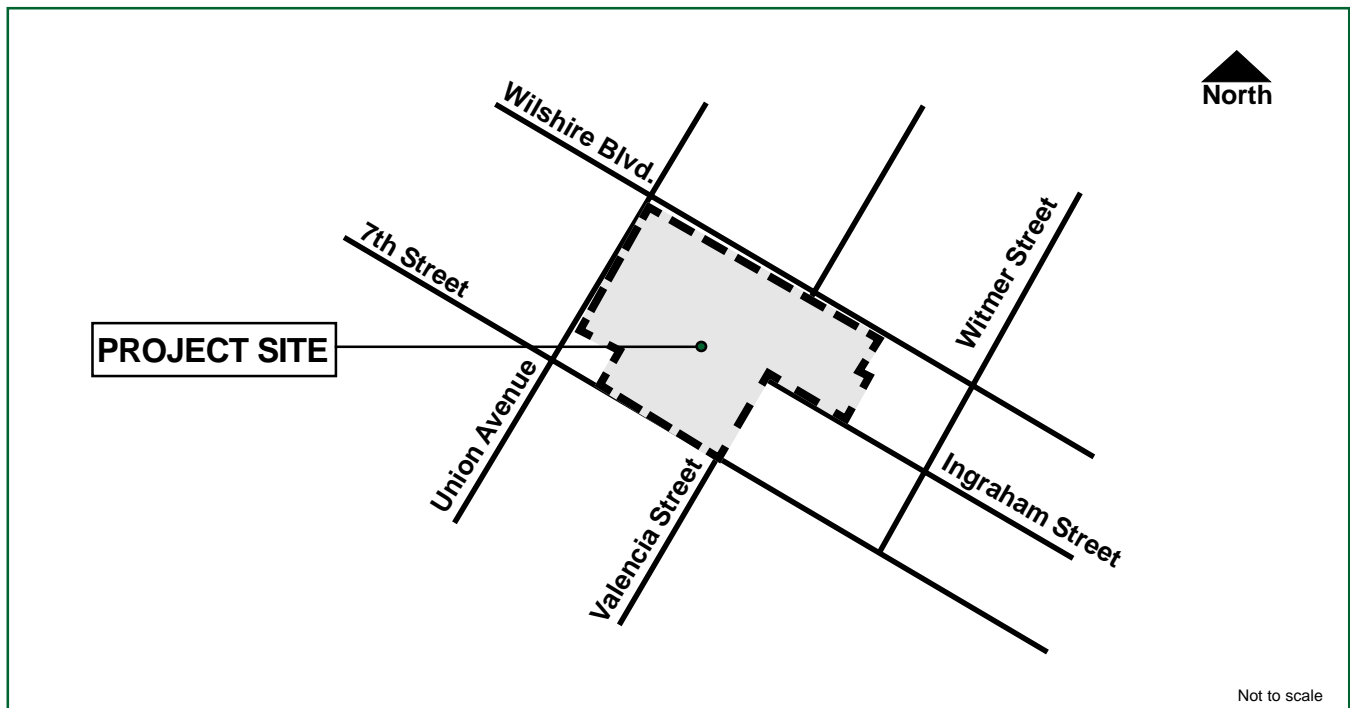
If the cleanup plan is approved as written, some noise from the earth-moving equipment can be expected during the soil removal. We will try to keep this distraction to a minimum.

No traffic delays are expected while the trucks are driving to and from the site. Here are some of the actions LAUSD will take to ensure safety on the site and minimize the impact of dust during the cleanup action:

- The removal area will be fenced off and the fence covered to control dust and mitigate noise
- The entire site will be secured and fenced.
- All vehicles will maintain slow speeds while on the property.
- The work area will be lightly sprayed or misted with clean water to prevent dust.
- Water mist will be sprayed on soil loaded into the transport trucks.
- The trucks will be secured with covers as they leave the site to prevent dust.
- The air will be monitored at the site to make sure the amount of dust stays at a safe level.
- Plastic sheets will be used to cover any piles of dug-up soil that may have to be left in place overnight.

Site Map

Proposed Central Los Angeles Area New Middle School #1



YOUR CHANCE TO MAKE COMMENTS

You have the opportunity to review and comment on the Draft Removal Action Workplan. The Public Comment period ends on March 26, 2003, during which time you can review and send comments to us regarding your questions and thoughts about the proposed cleanup option. Your comments must be postmarked no later than March 26, 2003. Send comments to: Laura Zaremba, DTSC Project Manager, (818) 551-2183, 1011 N. Grandview Ave., Glendale, CA 91201.

WHERE TO FIND SITE DOCUMENTS (Technical Reports)

The proposed cleanup plan is described in detail in the "Removal Action Workplan" for the proposed Central Los Angeles Area New Middle School No. 1. This document also describes how we looked at the possible health risks. All the documents about this site are available for your review at the following [locations](#):

Felipe De Neve Branch Library
2820 W. 6th Street
Los Angeles, CA 90057
Contact: Reference Librarian
Phone: (213) 384-7676
Monday and Thursday 12:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Tuesday and Saturday 10:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Wednesday and Friday 12:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Sundays: Closed

Department of Toxic Substances Control
Regional Records Office
1011 N. Grandview Avenue
Glendale, CA 91201
Contact: Jone Barrio
Phone: (818) 551-2886
Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Los Angeles Unified School District
Office of Communications
333 South Beaudry Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90017
Contact: Susie Solano
Phone: (213) 241-6766
Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

WHO TO CALL FOR INFORMATION

If you have any questions about the cleanup project or cleanup activities, please call the following persons at our agency: Ms. Treva Miller, Public Participation Specialist, at (818) 551-2846; or Ms. Laura Zaremba, DTSC Project Manager, at (818) 551-2183. *Si desea información en español, comuníquese con: Sr. Eloy Florez, Especialista en Participación Pública del DTSC, al (818) 551-2875.* For media inquiries, please contact Jeanne Garcia, Public Information Officer at (818) 551-2176. For more information about the DTSC, please visit our web site at www.dtsc.ca.gov.

If you have any questions about the cleanup work schedule or onsite cleanup activities, please call Mr. Ken Patton, LAUSD Project Manager, LAUSD Office of Environmental Health and Safety, at (213) 633-7428. **For information related to the school design and construction, please call:** Fortunato Tapia, LAUSD Community Outreach Office, at (213) 633-8976. *Si desea información en español, comuníquese con: Fortunato Tapia, Oficina de Community Outreach del LAUSD, al (213) 633-8976 o por correo electrónico: ftapia@laschools.org.*

NOTICE TO HEARING IMPAIRED INDIVIDUALS

TDD users can use the California Relay Service at (1-888-877-5378) to reach DTSC Public Participation Specialist, Treva Miller, at (818) 551-2846.

COMMENT FORM

If you have any comments concerning the **Proposed Central Los Angeles Area New Middle School No. 1 Draft Removal Action Workplan** please fill out the information below and mail by **March 26, 2003** to: Ms. Laura Zaremba, Department of Toxic Substances Control, 1011 N. Grandview Avenue, Glendale, CA 91201. Please include your name and address if you wish to receive a copy of the written Response to Comments when the Final Removal Action Workplan is issued.

Name (optional) _____

Organization (optional) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ (optional)

Fax _____ (optional) E-mail _____ (optional)

Comments (attach additional pages if needed) _____

[Note: Your comments will be considered public records for this site and, if requested, may be subject to release.]